



Data Protection Officer Conference March 10 2008 Summary of delegate feedback

This is a summary of the delegate feedback from the event. We received responses from 76¹ individuals, out of a total of 111 delegates who actually attended on the day. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We will use this feedback to inform planning for future events.

Presentations

1 To what extent would you agree or disagree with the following statements about the event?

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly
Conference Presentations					
There were a good range of speakers	42	30	4		
The topics covered were of interest and relevance to my role	35	37	2	2	
Other comments: <i>Most delegates found the presentations useful and thought the pace of these was good. Some thought it would be a good idea to ask delegates to pre-submit questions which could then be discussed at the event.</i>					

Workshop Session 1 - Security					
The topic was interesting and relevant	50	22	3	1	
The format for discussing this topic was effective	39	26	4	6	
Other comments: Regarding the workshops in general: <i>Many agreed that the workshops were an excellent opportunity to learn, share and network. Some thought mixed sector groups would have worked better and allowed more exchange of ideas. Some delegates felt it was not always clear what was expected from the workshop sessions and would have preferred more presentations, however others thought that the workshops were a good idea and enjoyed the exchange of ideas.</i>					

Workshop Session 2 – Transparency					
The topic was interesting and relevant	40	29	7		
The format for discussing this topic was effective	38	24	7	6	
Other comments: <i>See above.</i>					

Format of the day					
There was a good balance of presentations and workshops	52	21	1	1	
The event was long enough and covered key areas	50	21	3		1
I would like to attend another event like this in the future	70	6			

¹ Where the scores do not add up to 76, this is because some respondents did not enter a score in every box.

Other comments: *Most delegates found the day very useful. Whilst some felt a mix of sectors within each group would be preferable, others felt that focussed workshops by sector would allow more fruitful discussions. Some felt the feedback session from the workshops was too long and repetitive.*

2 Do you have any other general comments on the format and content of the day?

Many delegates would like to see this type of event held in other parts of the country to allow more people to attend and to perhaps split it into public and private sectors. They found it a useful networking opportunity and enjoyed meeting staff from the ICO with whom they had had contact. Delegates generally would like more of a focus on practical solutions and good practice. Every delegate who completed a feedback form indicated that they would like to attend other events like this in the future.

3 What data protection topics would you like to discuss at any future conference?

Many delegates are concerned about information sharing issues as well as data retention, electronic communication, guidance on the interface between DP and FOI and interaction with other legislation such as the Human Rights Act. Most delegates would benefit from more guidance on specific issues and would like more feedback from the ICO on, for example, complaints resolution.

4 Is there anything that you would like the ICO to provide more information on in terms of supporting you in your role (e.g. guidance, events, email bulletins etc)?

A number of delegates mentioned they would like to see a Q & A section on our website based on actual enquiries and responses on hot topic issues. A few suggested that it would be useful to set up regional groups or forums to disseminate best practice and share knowledge and ideas. They want more guidance notes to be produced more quickly and with input from practitioners, not just ICO staff. Some delegates requested more email bulletins and guidance aimed at specific sectors. Virtually all delegates said they would welcome more events like this.

Conference arrangements

5 How well would you rate:

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Conference organisation					
Pre-conference registration	44	20	9	2	
Registration	45	21	8		
Helpfulness of staff	52	19	4		
Delegate packs	34	30	11		
Website	20	29	15	10	1
Venue					
Facilities	29	28	12	6	
Catering	25	27	10	12	1
Evening reception as a useful networking opportunity.	17	10	8	1	